

## BLACK TO FACE THOMPSON GRILL

Swann's Aid To Be Called  
Before Committee He  
Is Investigating.

## SUPPLY COMPANY DETAILS WANTED

Story Is Told of a Plot to Bo-  
smirch Senator That  
Fell Through.

William Herman Black, the Assistant District Attorney assigned by District Attorney Swann to investigate the Thompson committee's expense bills, will be put on the grill by the Thompson committee, it was stated last night. He will be asked in detail what his connections are with the Car Light company, Inc., of which he is treasurer. This corporation, which has sold to the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company and the New York City Railways Company, is one of the transit supply corporations that the Thompson committee was on the trail of when efforts of all sorts were made to stop the investigation.

A story is going the rounds that has caused laughter among those connected with the investigation. The story goes that interests back of the fight against Senator Thompson conspired to be-

smirch his character through the aid of chorus and manicure girls.

It is said a Tammany Hall officer, a man well on in years, and well known in Broadway cabarets, where he may be seen nightly in the company of young girls, loud of voice and dress and with tinted faces, was selected to engineer this plot. This man has a bachelor apartment, where he gives kimono parties for his friends.

### Plot Falls Through.

The aim of the conspirators was to get Senator Thompson, who is a married man, in a compromising position, and, failing that, to get the girls to stand for a frame-up against Senator Thompson. But evidently the conspirators have given up their plot as a bad job.

Charles Hotelling, sergeant-at-arms of the Senate, who was announced at the District Attorney's office on Tuesday night, probably would be indicted yesterday for pro-rating the Biltmore bill, was not indicted.

A new story concerning Mr. Hotelling, which was branded later as untrue, was given to newspaper men by one of District Attorney Swann's assistants. The story was that Mr. Hotelling, through a friend, had telephoned the District Attorney's office and offered to "squelch."

"That is not true," said the sergeant-at-arms last night. "I did not call up District Attorney Swann's office, nor did any friend of mine. I have nothing to 'squelch' about."

### Inquiry to Go On.

Senator Thompson arrived from Albany last night. He said that he would go ahead with the probe, but where it would, he found on his arrival at the Biltmore several letters and telegrams congratulating him on his work.

A close friend of Charles F. Murphy, leader of Tammany Hall, will soon be called as a witness by the Thompson committee.

## Everybody on Junket to Explain Own Bills

(From a Staff Correspondent of The Tribune.) Albany, Jan. 26. In an effort to put the lid on the demand for an investigation of the expense accounts of previous legislative committees, the Ways and Means Committee of the House today reported a bill providing for personal responsibility for the expenditures of future investigating committees. The bill is designed to soothe the agitation aroused by Assemblyman McQuinn over the Biltmore vouchers of the Thompson committee.

Mr. Maier, chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, introduced the bill, and the praise it received from both the majority and minority is an indication that it will be passed speedily by the Assembly. The opposition to any further stirring up of legislative committee expenditures is strictly bipartisan.

Under the bill introduced today legislators on investigating junkets will

have to render an itemized account of their joy rides, theatre tickets and various other little luxuries which up to state legislators have been so essential to a week end at a New York hotel at the expense of the state.

With practically all hope of success abandoned, Assemblyman McQuinn today was still insistent on an investigation of the accounts of legislative committees for the last few years.

## Mack Defends Expenditures of Exposition Commission

(From a Staff Correspondent of The Tribune.) Albany, Jan. 26. Declaring that the Panama-Pacific Exposition Commission wanted to stand on the judgment of those who were at the exposition, Norman E. Mack, chairman of the commission, issued a long statement to-night defending its financial expenditures. He said in part:

"We entertained in that building. We were sent to San Francisco to show New York's best side. At the opening reception former Governor Glynn was the principal guest. At the next reception, which marked the dedication of the building by Dr. Seth Low, who was Governor Whitman's selection to make the dedicatory speech, Dr. Low was the guest of honor."

"Governor Whitman and his staff, following the adjournment of the Legislature, were invited out by us as central figures in New York State Week. We also invited the Controller as the chief financial officer. Every state in the Union, as far as I know, entertained its Governor. All governors took members of their official families."

"We entertained United States Senator Wadsworth and his family and were proud to have Colonel Goethals our guest to show the representatives of the world assembled about us that it was a New Yorker that made the celebration of the completion of the Panama Canal possible. We also entertained former Governor Dix and Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo as representative New Yorkers."

"I know there was not a dollar of the state's money mispent. We have vouchers for all money paid out. They are all on file."

## HILLES STILL TALKS UNITY Again Declares that Breach of 1912 Is Practically Healed.

Charles D. Hilles, chairman of the Republican National Committee, returned yesterday from Chicago, where he attended the meeting of the subcommittee on arrangements for the national convention, to be held in Chicago on June 7. Mr. Hilles said that he had not yet received the open letter sent to him by George W. Perkins, chairman of the executive committee of the Progressive National Committee, in which the latter took exception to Mr. Hilles' statement that "the breach of 1912 had practically been healed in all the states save one."

Mr. Hilles said that the information on which he based his statement had come from the various national committees, and that while he was inclined to argue the matter with Mr. Perkins he considered it reasonably accurate.

## WRESTLING BROTHER AND SISTER.



Joe Stecher and Anna, who, at thirteen, is Greco-Roman expert.

## WOMEN WRASSLE? SURE, URGES JOE

Stecher, Western Grappler,  
Strong for Catch-as-  
Catch-Can Suffrage.

By BLANCH BRACE.  
"Sure, you women ought to be taught how to wrastle, too. Best thing in the world for you."

I gasped. But Joe Stecher, big, casual Nebraska, almost boredly calm on the eve of his first New York appearance with the Masked Marvel and half a dozen others grimly ready to put ambitious Westerners off the Manhattan map, leaned back, crossed his long legs, pulled his coat sleeve down a little nearer his lean, powerful hand and smiled at me as carelessly as if he had made the most ordinary remark.

"Do you good," he said again.

"Yes, but," I began.

For in my wildest dreams of feminism I had never expected to hear a man advocate that women should be taught the hammerlock or the half Nelson, and that to me as a sort of divine shock. Then a stern suspicion occurred to me.

"Would you let your own women folk be taught how to wrastle?" I demanded, putting Joe Stecher to the crucial test.

You know, there are such a lot of men who are broadminded, except within the narrow confines of domesticity. They believe in a great many things for women in general—yes, yes! But marching in parades for you, I don't see. Speeches on corners for their wives or mothers or sisters—no, no! Anxiously I fixed my eyes upon the tanned face of the big Nebraska who is getting in line for the catch-as-catch-can championship.

"Would I?" repeated Joe Stecher. "I'd show them myself."

His brother, Anton Stecher, who first taught Joe to wrestle and who, he had taken part in many matches himself, confirmed the statement.

"He means it," he said, as the big Nebraska handed me a picture. "There's two wrasslers for you," commented Joe Stecher. "Anna and Elsie, my kid sisters, thirteen and eleven years old. I guess there aren't many little girls in the East who would know how to handle either of that pair. I know everything I do, from the side roll to the scissors hold, and could give you a pretty fair imitation of it. They keep up with the sporting news, and follow me in print wherever I go."

I stared at the two wholesome looking youngsters. In spite of their prowess, they were demure and smooth-haired and feminine—not a bit hardened by their athletic tendencies.

"Don't you think that wrestling I brought it out triumphantly this time is a little strenuous for the average woman?" I asked apologetically.

"Oh, I wouldn't have them go on the mat, of course," conceded Joe Stecher. "But if they just learn the holds and practise them a little with each other it would make them healthier."

"My mother, now, wouldn't make a wrassler, he admitted. "She's proud of us, but she's scared. She won't even come to see us." He smiled at the dear mother-foolishness of the idea.

"If I ever get to be champion I'll be my mother and my sisters' hat as doing it as much as me. It makes a lot of difference when your women folks are with you," Joe Stecher said.

## FORD IN SECLUSION PLANS PEACE COUP

Will End War or Go Broke, His  
Friends Declare.

(By Telegraph to The Tribune.) Detroit, Jan. 26.—The whereabouts of Henry Ford is a mystery. Efforts to reach him at his home and office today were fruitless.

A new rumor that Mr. Ford is attending the National Automobile show in Chicago was heard in financial circles here. Officials of the Ford company decline to discuss the movements of their chief.

His friends say that he will launch another scheme to bring about peace, and that the undertaking will be on a larger and more elaborate scale than the chartering of the peace ship Oscar II.

"Henry Ford will bring about peace or go broke," is the way they are quoted.

The Ford Motor Company's plant in Highland Park is to be made three times its present size, Frank L. Klingensmith, vice-president and general manager, announced today. Work will be started in a month. The cost, it is said, will be about \$10,000,000.

WAR HITS LONG ISLAND  
Little Vitriol for Potato Bugs, and Potash Is Scarce.

The war has tripled the cost of spraying potatoes, according to Jared Van Wagenen, Jr., of Lawersville, N.Y., who addressed the State Farmers' Institute at Mineola, yesterday. The reason, he explained, was that blue vitriol is a copper product, and copper is needed in the manufacture of ammunition.

Potash is also at a premium, said Mr. Van Wagenen, as all supplies are needed not affect the farmers of Long Island, because they have used so much in the past that the fields are not richly charged with the fertilizer.

## 'WE BOY' UPSETS DEFENCE SOCIETY

Organization Hears Its  
Financial Genius Is Ex-  
Peacock Alley Bandit.

After a rush meeting at noon yesterday of the American Defence Society, a preparedness organization numbering among its advisory members Colonel Roosevelt, former Ambassador David Jayne Hill and William F. McComb, Democratic national chairman, the resignation of George M. Baxter, chief fund collector of the society, was demanded, to take effect immediately.

This action followed the discovery that Baxter was the George Baxter who, years ago, was an alleged leading spirit in the notorious We Boys organization, which operated among the gullible at the Waldorf.

The We Boys consisted of several groups of men who engineered, among other schemes, the sale of life memberships in the Gridiron Club in Washington. Their solicitors would approach prospective easy marks by saying that they wanted to help worthy young newspaper men, and that We Boys—meaning newspaper men in general—would appreciate a \$200 subscription. This would entitle the subscriber to the privileges of the Washington club for the rest of his days.

Sick in bed with tonsillitis, but looking like a twin brother to Mr. J. Rufus Wallingford, Baxter talked to reporters yesterday at his home, at 311 West Ninety-fifth Street.

"Resign? Of course I won't resign," he declared. "There is nothing in my record of which I am ashamed. I never was a member of the We Boys, and I certainly will not hand in my resignation to the defence society. If I did, it would be practically admitting that I am wrong."

"The story in 'The Evening World' connecting my name with the We Boys never would have been published if that paper had not seen a check for \$200,000, which I am ashamed. I never was a member of the We Boys, and I certainly will not hand in my resignation to the defence society. If I did, it would be practically admitting that I am wrong."

Baxter, the society freely admitted yesterday, was the man who put the organization on its feet. Before he took hold last August it was expiring rapidly—without money enough in the treasury to buy postage stamps.

In this period we went literally begging for help," C. S. Thompson, chairman of the board of trustees, recently reported. "The sums we got were not sufficient to buy postage, to say nothing of rent, telephones, stenographers, stationery, printing, and other necessities. But our appeals began to show gratifying results, which entitle him, I shall always believe, to a lasting vote of thanks."

As Baxter, according to Mr. Thompson, has brought \$50,000 into the coffers of the society, the vote of thanks continues, but in the light of the past it is not deemed wise to employ him longer.

"W. appointed Mr. Baxter," Mr. Thompson said, "after a thorough examination and upon a dozen or more of the highest references. One came from Major J. J. Dickinson, a near relative of the former Secretary of War and a friend of William F. McComb."

To make sure, however, that none of the contributions have gone astray, the society decided last night to send letters to all its members, stating the amount credited to each and asking whether this sum has been actually given.

## 'WARE CIGAR CUTTER, HEALTH BOARD WARNS

Little Germ Is Lurking There for  
Unsuspecting Smoker.

Beware of the cigar cutter on the tobaccoist's counter. It spreads disease, says the Board of Health, which has put a lot of them under the microscope. The average smoker smokes the end of his cigar before inserting it into the baleful snippers, and there's the mischief. Most of the cutters have a conical receptacle for the cigar end, which, by a slight pressure, releases the blade automatically. This type is the worst offender, Health Commissioner Emerson finds. Diphtheria bacilli and other dread bacteria have been found lurking therein.

Commissioner Emerson has called a conference with the retail cigar dealers to save the smoker. Meanwhile Dr. C. F. Bolduan, of the Bureau of Public Health Education, suggests:

First—A boycott of the common public cigar cutter.

Second—If you must use it, do not moisten your cheroot.

Third—Don't borrow a cutter; use your teeth.

Fourth—Don't smoke cigars. (Sit down, Dr. Pease!)

Dr. Bolduan is an inveterate smoker—of cigarettes.

## WOODS FAITHFUL TO MAYOR

Will Remain Police Commissioner as  
Long as Mitchell Wants Him.

If Governor Whitman wants Arthur Woods in his cabinet he will have to offer something better than John B. Riley's job as Superintendent of Prisons.

"I will remain on my job as Police Commissioner as long as Mayor Mitchell wants me," was the way Woods set at rest all rumors.

## REFUGEE PRIEST, TIMID BOOTBLACK

Friend of Huerta Arrested  
for Plying Brush With-  
out a License.

## SENTENCED TO DIE. OUTWITTED CAPTORS

Shine Brings Bad Then Good  
Fortune to Clergyman, Who  
Still Fears Mexicans.

The little church of Nostra Señora de Guadalupe is—or was less than a year ago—the most exclusive in Mexico City. Before its altars worshipped dons of substance and high degree. No less a personage than the owner of the vast Buen Tono cigar factories was its particular pillar.

Father Peter Belagustegui, the little priest of Nostra Señora's parish, was a man of consequence. He had fame, social position, a modicum of political power and a personal fortune. It was nothing unusual for him to be seen motoring through the city at the side of the great General Huerta, in those days when to be a recognized Huertista was as good as being a king.

Yesterday Father Belagustegui, stripped of position, parish, power and fortune, was arrested in New York; his offence lay in his unlicensed attempt to earn a secular living by slipping into the ranks of the bootblacks in City Hall Park.

Even without a license he might have prospered had it not been for the slowness of his wardrobe. He had nothing to wear but the clerical hat, the Roman collar and the vestments of his other calling.

The combination of ecclesiastic attire and the bootblack's box, on the sides of which Father Peter had printed in English and Spanish the explanation that he had been driven from Mexico and knew no better way to support himself without a church, drew a crowd the moment he appeared. That was about 9 o'clock in the morning.

Father Peter's first customer was a stout man, who wore a large diamond in his tie and was obviously of another religious faith. The stout man stopped first to read the announcement on the box:

"Shine Shine—Limpiá Botas—5 cents. I am a Catholic priest expelled by Mexicans."

The opulent one, whose shoes already gleamed almost as brilliantly as his diamonds, had one shine replaced by another, and rewarded the priestly bootblack with a dollar. The crowd about the stand grew thicker and wider. Some one started to take up a collection. There appeared next a policeman. Father Peter was then protesting, mostly in Spanish, that he could take no money he did not earn.

Briefly informing Father Peter he had violated the law by causing a crowd to collect in a public place, the policeman took him to the Elizabeth Street station. Father Diamond was called from the Church of the Transfiguration, in Chinatown, to interpret.

Father Peter Seared Speechless.

Father Peter, frightened by the latest fall in his fortunes, could not talk coherently, so at Father Diamond's suggestion he was taken to Bellevue Hospital for observation.

There was great excitement in Gra-

nada House, a small Spanish hotel, at 314 West Fourteenth Street, when news of Father Peter's arrest came. It had been known that he had been through much trouble in Mexico and had been dependent on the Church since coming to New York last March, but the extent of his poverty had not been suspected.

In the observation ward at the hospital Father Peter recovered his calm. The little priest was almost happy when a Tribune reporter saw him, for he had just received word that on his release Father Diamond would take him into the Transfiguration parish work.

"For the first time," he said through an interpreter, "I am not afraid the Carranzistas will be able to take me back to Mexico."

It was on the night before the day he was to be released, as Father Peter related the story, that he made his escape. He had been in custody from January 4, 1915, under charges of being poeally opposed to the Carranza government.

When Carranza evacuated the city and Villa entered, Father Peter hoped for his release. Villa, however, was willing to carry out his sentence. Once outside I dropped the box and ran up the mountain, which stooped to the walls.

"Up, up I stumbled. It was many hours later before I dared to stop. I found myself under an Indian hut, and it was yet another hour before I could persuade the old Indian to admit me. The next day he rode down into the city and returned with a newspaper. In it I read of the execution of Don Rivera and my other companions and of my own escape. Another item told of the refugee train which was to carry a number of priests out of Mexico. I made my way to Vera Cruz and boarded the train three days later under an assumed name."

"I tried to get work in New York when I found I would have to wait for a church, but I was handicapped because I could not speak English. No one wanted me. Blacking boots suggested itself as being an honorable employment, in which talking would not be required if one could learn to do a good job."

LUNCHEON FOR ALDERMEN  
Merchants Entertain New Board—  
Mayor Pleads for Home Rule.

Mayor John Purroy Mitchell and George McAneny spoke for home rule at the luncheon for the new Board of Aldermen by the Members' Council of the Merchants' Association at the Hotel Astor yesterday.

More than one thousand men attended the luncheon. The general subject under discussion was "The Welfare of New York City."

"We have asked for home rule repeatedly," said the Mayor. "We are going to ask for it again. In the Legislature now in session a proposal will be presented for a constitutional amendment. Home rule will bring added power and responsibility to the Aldermen. We want to have the hands of the city government untied to do the work of the city in the light of city experience and with the knowledge of city problems and necessities."

"A home rule charter," said Mr. McAneny, "that will establish a really scientific and up-to-date system of government, with all the economies of administration that would follow, a home rule power to control the finances that would take away the present hindrances that we are under through mandatory legislation placed upon the city at the hands of the Legislature at Albany. Those things will come; they are bound to come; they are within the clearly defined scheme of evolution of the next few years."

PRAYER RUG BRINGS \$1,250  
First Day's Sale of Andrews Oriental  
Collection Totals \$9,579.

An antique Ghiordees prayer rug brought the top price—\$1,250—yesterday at the opening session of the sale at the American Art Galleries of the collection of Oriental art by the late J. R. Andrews, of Bath, Me. F. S. Laird was the purchaser, and he also gave \$1,170 for a Chinese porcelain vase of the K'ang-hsi period. The decoration shows an emperor and empress seated in the large hall of an imperial palace, surrounded by high officials. The same Luyar paid \$410 for an early eighteenth century Ladis prayer rug.

Another antique Ladis prayer rug, with a close pile and lustrous colors, was sold to Kelekian & Co. for \$750. For a hard paste hawthorn ginger jar of the K'ang-hsi period F. J. Marton gave \$9,579.50. The total of the session was \$9,579.50.

The first session of the sale of the Andrews collection of paintings takes place at the Hotel Plaza this evening.

## Franklin Simon & Co.

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## Men's Clothing Shop

8 West 38th St.—Separate Shop

## Sale—Men's Overcoats

TO-DAY

## Men's Silk Lined Overcoats

New Winter Models—33 to 46 Chest

Fitted, Semi-Fitted, Chesterfield, also Slip-on Models

28.00

Heretofore \$35.00 and \$40.00

Hand-tailored silk lined Overcoats of Oxford or Black Vicuna; velvet collar. "Carmoor" London made Overcoats in Slip-on or English Great Coat models, of the newest English fabrics, including Invisible Overplaid and Heather mixtures in the new colorings. Yoke and sleeves silk lined.

## Men's Winter Overcoats

33 to 46 Chest

Winter Overcoats for general wear (made of warmth without weight Imported and Domestic fabrics) in plain Oxford, tweed, Heather mixtures and home-spuns, including the newest Invisible Overplaid in a large variety of colorings.

25.00

Heretofore \$30.00 and \$35.00

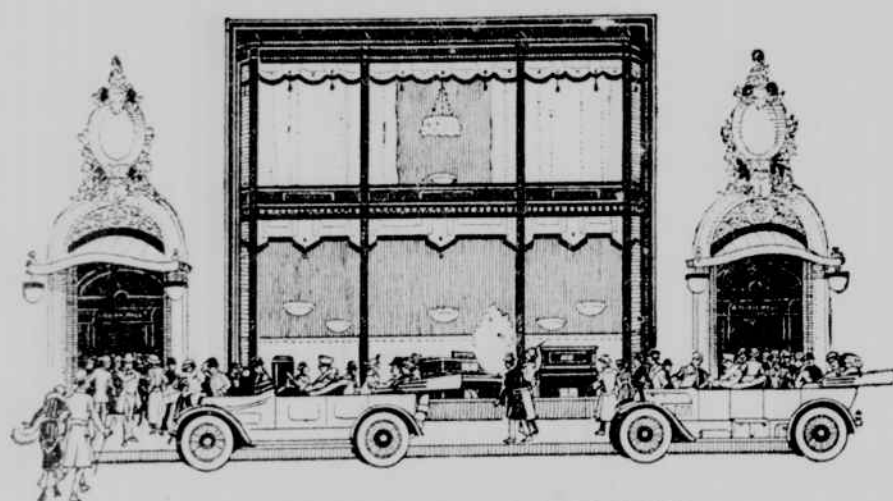
## Silk Lined Chesterfield Overcoats

Also Slip-on, Fitted or Semi-Fitted Models

FOR MEN, 33 TO 46 CHEST

Chesterfield Winter Overcoats—hand tailored—of Vicuna in Oxford, black or blue, with collar of velvet or self material; lined throughout with Skinner's Satin.

20.00 Heretofore \$27.50



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